

# MATT SALMON

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## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Representative Matt Salmon

### Statement on *Unlocking Our Future: Toward a New National Science Policy* September 25, 1998

I appreciate the hard work that Congressman Ehlers and his staff have put into this study, which provides an excellent foundation for a United States science and technology policy. We need to follow the report's implications and recommendations carefully as we work to strengthen science and technology research and education. This will require cooperation between the Congress and state and local efforts. We must continue intelligent federal investment in basic peer-reviewed scientific research, and we must discover new ways to educate our children so that they finish first rather than last on international tests like the TIMSS.

In January, I invited Congressman Ehlers to Arizona State University (ASU) to observe the innovative programs and techniques the school has implemented to improve the math and science educational experience of Arizona's youth. ASU and the Maricopa County Community Colleges located in my district work together on a number of federally and state funded projects to promote science and technology education from kindergarten through graduate school. And all of the state universities -- ASU, the University of Arizona, and Northern Arizona University -- have identified strategic areas for investment in science and technology, and are working with the state to develop those areas of strength. All of these universities have received major awards from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute to promote undergraduate research and faculty development. And all three schools are actively involved in bringing together research and education -- of students and of K-12 teachers. Congressman Ehlers caught a glimpse of these programs when he visited ASU earlier this year, and I believe that they helped him to formulate some of the recommendations he included in the science report on how to improve math and science education.

Congressman Ehlers' report challenges us to work harder, dig deeper, and go farther than we ever have before in articulating a federal scientific policy that is "coherent, comprehensive, and concise." I applaud this effort and believe that the report will serve as a guide in the long-term development of America's science and math education policy.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Matt Salmon".